

THE PORTLIGHT

A newsletter for members and friends of Portland Avenue United Methodist Church



May 2026

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JOIN US ON **SUNDAY, MAY 10 AT 10:00AM** AS WE CELEBRATE THE WOMEN OF THE PORT FOR ALL YOU DO EVERYDAY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THOSE AROUND YOU.

WE'LL HAVE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR ALL OF OUR MOMS, DAUGHTERS, SISTERS, AUNTS, AND GRANDMOTHERS. PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS!

JOIN US FOR OUR

ANNUAL GREAT DAY OF
MUSIC ON
SUNDAY, MAY 17,
10:00AM



WE'LL END OUR PROGRAM YEAR WITH A SERVICE FILLED WITH MUSIC FEATURING OUR PORT BAND, OUR PAINISTS, SONRISE, AND A FEW OTHER SPECIAL SURPRISES. PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS FOR THIS UPLIFTING MORNING!

Our Mission

"To grow followers of Jesus who change the world."

Our Vision

"To be a safe harbor along life's journey."

The **PORT**
A safe harbor along life's journey.

Pastor's Message

Hello Portland Avenue UMC,

It is hard to believe it, but we are now entering May. This means that since I started here at The Port last summer, I have now made it through one full program year. It has been quite the year and I am very thankful for so many people this year.

I want to start first with our teachers, who have faithfully taught our kids every other week since September. This is not always the most glamorous job, and it is done somewhat behind the scenes and in obscurity, but the work is very, very important. I am so thankful to Janene, Traci, Becky, and Beth – who have given so much of their time and effort this year, despite facing health challenges and other family situations.

This has been especially challenging because we have not had the most consistent attendance for our kids throughout the year, so every Sunday they would have a plan but would need to be flexible on how to execute it depending on what kids were there. I especially notice this not only as a pastor, but as a father. My kids are always there, and sometimes they are the only kids, and they are not always the easiest to handle! Through all of this, our teachers have been faithful, they have provided great teaching based upon the love of Christ. We also had great Christmas events that were a significant blessing to the entire church. We will be celebrating all of our teachers on Sunday, May 3.

I also want to thank our wonderful Hospitality Team – Kathy Soucy and Lynn Livingston. They do faithful work each week to make sure that the narthex and Wesley Room look good in the morning, and that there is always coffee and treats available for Fellowship Time. We do have many people sign up to bring treats, but there are sometimes gaps, and Kathy and Lynn make sure that everything is in order.

I am very thankful that we have a nice and welcoming church each Sunday morning. Part of what makes our church welcoming is the great work of our Greeters and our Ushers. Many, many people take turns

volunteering for those roles each week, and I am thankful for their smiles, their welcoming presence, and their generosity for all who come to visit.

There are, of course, many others that make Sunday go well – our tech team (sound, media, livestream), our singers, our musicians, our readers/liturgists. There are many who help with preparation throughout the week. The work that Lori does in the office, those who come in to help print and fold the bulletins each week. We have many dedicated volunteers who serve on the finance team and as counters. It is a blessing to come into a church as a new pastor and to see so many people who are dedicated to the church, who give so freely of their time and their talents in faithful service to God and the church. We have a great foundation here, and I am excited for what God has in store next here at The Port.

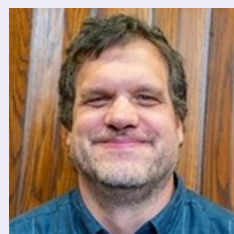
But we aren't done yet! We have many great things coming up in May and June. We have the Spring Clean-up work day on Saturday, May 9. Mother's Day on May 10. The Great Day of Music on May 17. Graduate Recognition on June 14 and Father's Day on June 21.

We also have plans for July and August, to take a breath, rest a little, and enjoy the summer in Minnesota. As you may or may not know, I will be in England for much of the month of July. I will first be at a 10 day class for a Wesley Pilgrimage, and then I will meet up with my family for some vacation before returning home, hopefully rested and rearing to go for the fall.


I am very thankful to be the pastor at The Port. Thank you all for everything that you do!

Blessings to you all and I'll see you on Sunday,

Pastor Steve



May Schedule for Sunday Volunteers

| | May 3 | May 10 | May 17 | May 24 | May 31 |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Welcomers | Steve & Kathy Soucy | Heather Anderson Bill Baker | Kathy Bell & John Hepola | Heather Anderson Bill Baker | Tracy Baker Dorothy Baker |
| Ushers | Bruce Benson Laurette Lawson Scott Swenson | Bruce Benson Wayne Andersen Sharon Beckler | Trent Olson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy | Bruce Benson Don Anderson Mike Moreland | Trent Olson Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy |
| Reader | Kathy Bell | Katelyn Hagerty | John Hepola | Pam Rose | Gary Stockert |
| Sound | Eric R-M | Intern Paddy | Eric R-M | Tim Madsen | Intern Paddy |
| Media | Barb Andrus | Nancy Hagerty | Barb Andrus | Tim Madsen | Barb Andrus |
| Livestream | Clint Andrus | Tim Hagerty | Scott Swenson | Trent Olson | Clint Andrus |
| Closer | Scott Swenson | Don Anderson | Harvey Erstad | TBD | Scott Swenson |
| Counters | Trent Olson Wayne Andersen | Trent Olson Mike Moreland | Pam Rose Mike Moreland | Pam Rose Steve Soucy | Merlin Gilbertson Steve Soucy |
| Communion Stewards | Lynn Livingston Melinda Matton Kathy Soucy |  | | | |



Birthday Blessings to our May Friends!

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 05 - Tom Wellman | 23 - Evelyn Runck |
| 06 - Amy Runck | 24 - Scott Swenson |
| 10 - Janine Haugen | 24 - Shiloh Wilson |
| 16 - Mike Moreland | 28 - Sharon Beckler |
| 18 - Rylie Rasmussen | 28 - Vicki Fischer |
| 19 - Nathan Wells | 29 - Amelia Swenson |

If you have a birthday during the month of May but your name isn't on our list, please notify the office so we can update our records for next year.



Mission Outreach / Plant Fundraiser Extended

May's Mission Outreach Focus: 2026 Love Offering

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The 2026 Annual Conference will take place June 16-18, 2026 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, with a theme of "Created to Serve Joyfully." Our Love Offering is not simply charity, but a shared ministry, a way of joining God's work in the world. Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering. She shares, "This offering is more than a tradition. It is a tangible expression of our connectional life and our shared commitment to Christ's mission. When we give, we participate in ministry that reaches far beyond what any one congregation could do alone."

All donations to the 2025 Love Offering totaled **\$89,489.88!** How much can we raise this year?

This year's Love Offering will go to:

- Midwest Mission (30%)
- Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grant for Minnesota Conference Churches (20%)
- Endowment for Ministerial Education (20%)
- Minnesota Conference's Emergency Response Fund (20%)
- Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Scholarships (10%)



To make your donation, either place cash in an envelope with your name and indicate it's for the Love Offering or write a check to PAUMC with Love Offering in the memo.

Thank you, as always, for your generous support.

Nancy Hagerty and Pam Rose,
Mission Outreach Co-Chairs

Plant Fundraiser Extended: In-Person Shopping at Pahl's Market in Apple Valley!

Here's what you do:

1. Go to Pahl's Market - 6885 160th St W, Apple Valley.
2. Shop from Monday May 4th through Sunday May 17th.
3. Let them know that you are participating in the fundraiser and tell them it's for Portland Avenue United Methodist Church.
4. They will ensure all fundraising dollars go to us to add to the youth program.
5. 40% of all Annuals, Perennials, Herbs, Tropicals, House Plants and Vegetables sold will be given to The PORT!

If you have any questions, call Judy Richardson-Mahre at 612-202-6457 or email at jembrm@charter.net.

Thanks for your continued support of The Port!

Trustees' Annual Spring Cleanup Day will be Saturday, May 9

The Trustees invite everybody to help with the clean-up of our church building and grounds from **9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Saturday, May 9th**. Please join us for all or any part of this morning to refresh our shared facilities, both inside and outside. Refreshments will be provided.

There's something for everyone to do and we know "many hands make light work." Thank you in advance for your help!



Graduate Recognition will be Sunday, June 14th

Calling all grads! We'll be celebrating your accomplishments during our worship service on June 14th. Please notify the church office by 5/28 if you have a graduate in your family this year so that we can include them in the recognition. We will also have a reception following the service so that we can greet and congratulate the graduates.

The office phone is 952-888-6070 and email is paumc@paumc.org. Please provide the grad's name, school name, any honors received, and their future plans. Thank you!



Easter and Spring @ The PORT



Thank you to all who ordered plants for our beautiful Easter Garden. We especially want to thank Melinda Matton for her work to order and receive the plants and to get them displayed so beautifully, along with help from Kathy Soucy.

A very special thank you to Kathy Swenson, Barb Andrus, and our Bazaar Workshop Group who restored the butterfly screen to the cross. It sure created a gorgeous backdrop for our Easter altar.



TUNE IN FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP ONLINE @ 10:00 AM:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/PortlandAvenueUnitedMethodistChurch>



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| <p>3 Teacher Recognition 10:00am Worship/Communion 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>THANK YOU TEACHERS!</p> | <p>4 6:30pm Church Council (Zoom)</p> | <p>5 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop</p> | <p>6 12pm Noon Prayers 6:30pm Sunrise Rehrl</p> | <p>7 6:30pm Bible Study</p> | <p>8 6:30pm Bible Study</p> | <p>9 9:00am-12:00pm PORT Spring Cleanup Building and Grounds</p> <p>Spring Cleanup</p> |
| <p>10 Mother's Day 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>Happy MOTHER'S DAY</p> | <p>11 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop</p> | <p>12 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop</p> | <p>13 12pm Noon Prayers 6:30pm Sunrise Rehrl</p> | <p>14 <i>June Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:30pm Bible Study</p> | <p>15 6:30pm Bible Study</p> | <p>16</p> |
| <p>17 Great Day of Music 10:00am Worship 11:00am Coffee Fellowship</p> <p></p> | <p>18 6:30pm Worship Team (Zoom)</p> | <p>19 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop</p> | <p>20 12pm Noon Prayers 5:30pm SupPORT Community Dinner</p> | <p>21 6:30pm Bible Study</p> | <p>22 6:30pm Bible Study</p> | <p>23</p> |
| <p>24 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p> | <p>25 MEMORIAL DAY</p> | <p>26 6:30pm Bazaar Wkshop</p> | <p>27 12pm Noon Prayers</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> |
| <p>31 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship</p> | | | | | | |

Could you serve on Sunday mornings? Please ask any volunteer or contact the church office.

Portland Avenue United Methodist Church
8000 Portland Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55420



GIVE+
Electronic Giving Options



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE



Join us for in-person and livestreaming worship on Sundays at 10:00am.
Sunday School classes for Kindergarten through 8th grade are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Staff

Rev. Steve Nuessle (Pastor) PastorSteve@paumc.org. Office: 952-888-6070. Cell: 952-210-0409
Lori Livingston (Administrative Assistant) paumc@paumc.org Office: 952-888-6070
Judy Richardson-Mahre (Sonrise Director) jembrm@charter.net
Greg Jurek (Custodian)

Church Office E-mail: PAUMC@paumc.org PAUMC Website: www.paumc.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PortlandAvenueUMC/>
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